ROY THOMAS, MIKE HARRIS & VINCE COLLETTA
ALL-STAR SQUADRON
50

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'TIS THIS FAIR PLOT OF GROUND WE SEEK--AYE, AND NONE OTHER!
KREEEEEEK
AVAUNT YE, WHOE'ER YE BE!
SHOW THYSELF--OR FACE THE WRATH OF SIR JUSTIN, DUBBED THE SHINING KNIGHT!

BY MY HALIDOM!
YE DO WEAR THE ARMORED VESTMENT OF A KNIGHT-- YET YE SAY NAUGHT.
SPEAK, OR ELSE LOWER THY SWORD, ERE I MUST--
ZOUNDS! ARE YE, IN SOOTH, A MADMAN BORN?
SWIIISSSH!
ONE FINAL TIME, I BID THEE-- SPEAK THY NAME!
WHAT, SILENT STILL? THEN I'M LEFT NO CHOICE!
9

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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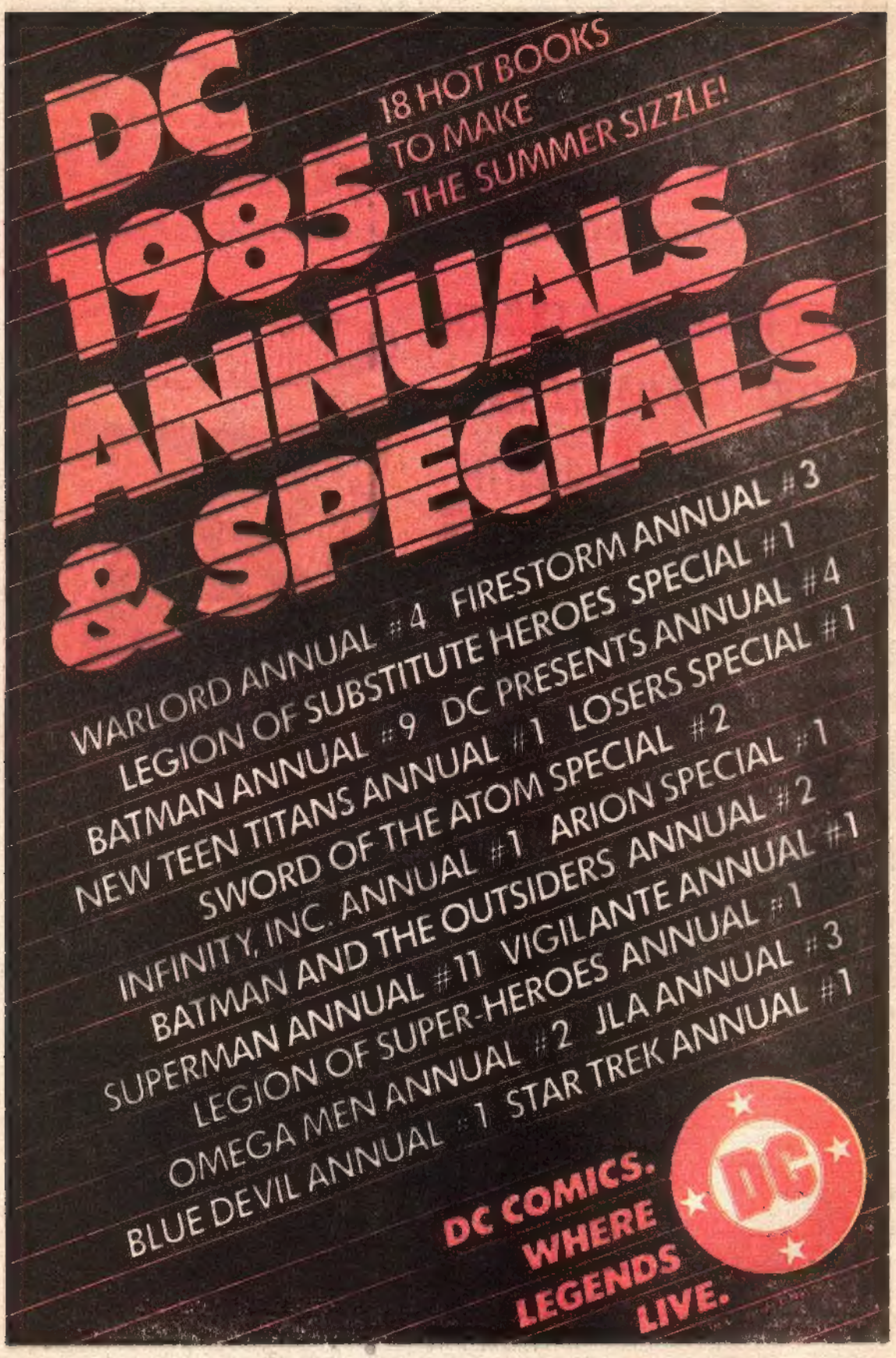
DC
18 HOT BOOKS
TO MAKE
THE SUMMER SIZZLE!
1985
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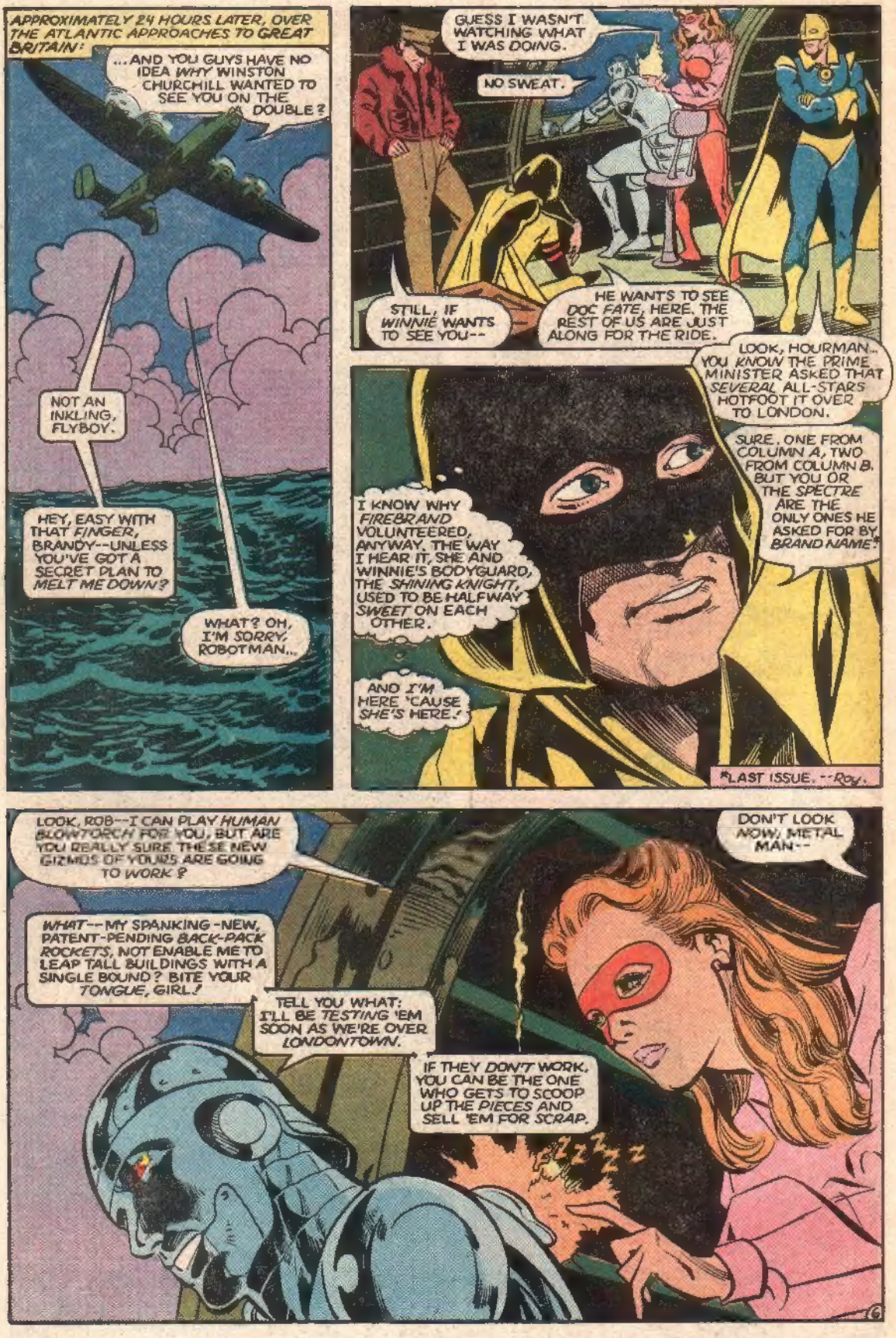
DC COMICS.
WHERE
LEGENDS
LIVE.

MY LIEGE--MY LORD!
TO THINK THAT YE, LIKE MYSELF, HAVE SURVIVED ALL THESE LONG, MUSTY CENTURIES!
MINE INVINCIBLE SWORD IS THINE ONCE MORE, AS 'TWAS EVER IN DAYS OF YORE!
BUT SPEAK--A SINGLE WORD PRONOUNCE, AND I SHALL--
BLAM
NOT ONE ANSWER, INDEED... BUT MANY.
AND THIS NIGHT OF NIGHTS--IN LATE MARCH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1942--THE SHINING KNIGHT HAS BEGUN TO LEARN A NEW AND SINISTER ONE.

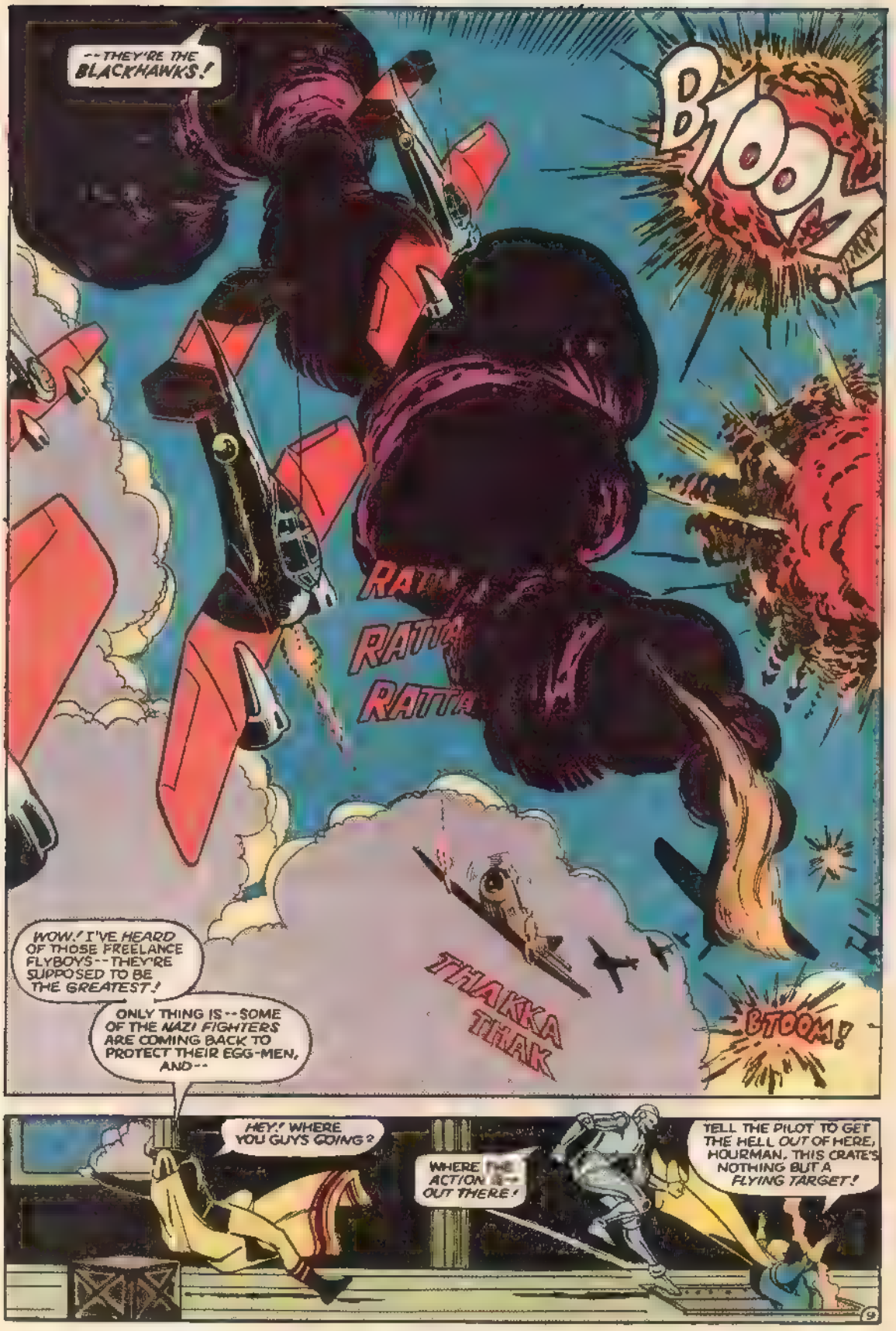

APPROXIMATELY 24 HOURS LATER, OVER THE ATLANTIC APPROACHES TO GREAT BRITAIN:
...AND YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA WHY WINSTON CHURCHILL WANTED TO SEE YOU ON THE DOUBLE?
NOT AN INKLING, FLYBOY.
HEY, EASY WITH THAT FINGER, BRANDY--UNLESS YOU'VE GOT A SECRET PLAN TO MELT ME DOWN?
WHAT? OH, I'M SORRY, ROBOTMAN...
GUESS I WASN'T WATCHING WHAT I WAS DOING.
NO SWEAT.
STILL, IF WINNIE WANTS TO SEE YOU--
HE WANTS TO SEE DOC FATE, HERE. THE REST OF US ARE JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
LOOK, HOURMAN.. YOU KNOW THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED THAT SEVERAL ALL-STARS HOTFOOT IT OVER TO LONDON.
SURE. ONE FROM COLUMN A, TWO FROM COLUMN B. BUT YOU OR THE SPECTRE ARE THE ONLY ONES HE ASKED FOR BY BRAND NAME!*
I KNOW WHY FIREBRAND VOLUNTEERED, ANYWAY. THE WAY I HEAR IT, SHE AND WINNIE'S BODYGUARD, THE SHINING KNIGHT, USED TO BE HALFWAY SWEET ON EACH OTHER.
AND I'M HERE 'CAUSE SHE'S HERE.
*LAST ISSUE. --Roy.
LOOK, ROB--I CAN PLAY HUMAN BLOWTORCH FOR YOU, BUT ARE YOU REALLY SURE THESE NEW GIZMOS OF YOURS ARE GOING TO WORK?
WHAT--MY SPANKING-NEW, PATENT-PENDING BACK-PACK ROCKETS, NOT ENABLE ME TO LEAP TALL BUILDINGS WITH A SINGLE BOUND? BITE YOUR TONGUE, GIRL!
TELL YOU WHAT: I'LL BE TESTING 'EM SOON AS WE'RE OVER LONDONTOWN.
IF THEY DON'T WORK, YOU CAN BE THE ONE WHO GETS TO SCOOP UP THE PIECES AND SELL 'EM FOR SCRAP.
DON'T LOOK NOW, METAL MAN--
Z z z z
6

--BUT WE'RE THERE! LONDON-- DEAD BELOW.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO FOUND IT. LOOK!
Oh, my God.
LOOKS LIKE HALF OF HERMANN GÖRING'S LUFTWAFFE HAD THE SAME IDEA!
BTOOM
KRA-KOOM
FTHOOM!

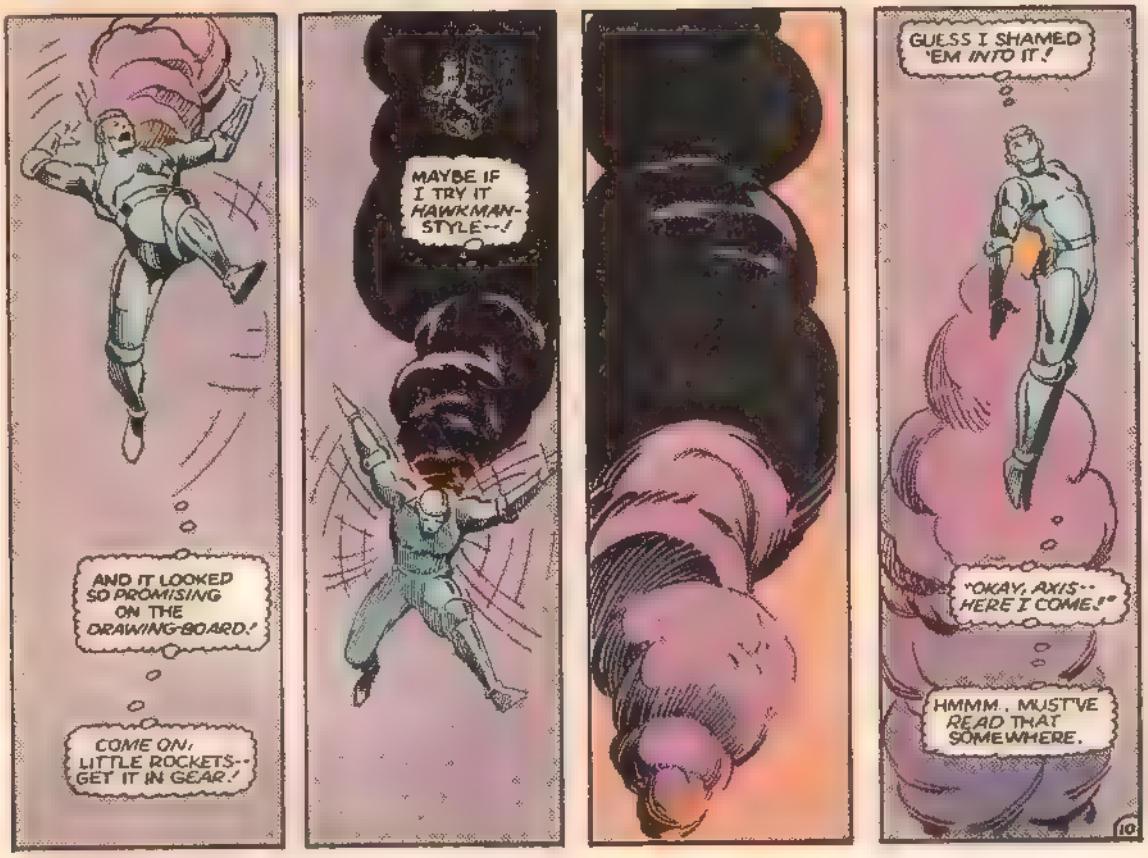
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

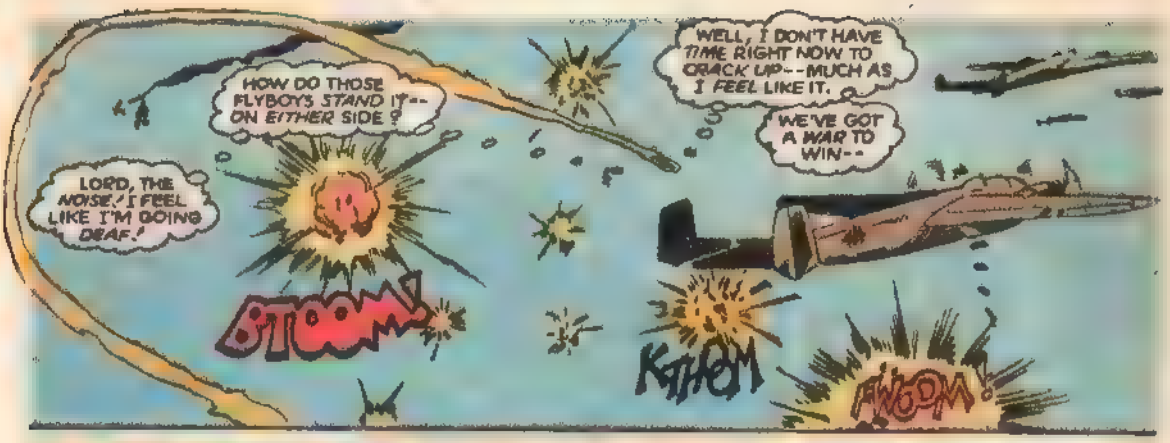
How most mouths feel about Twizzlers.

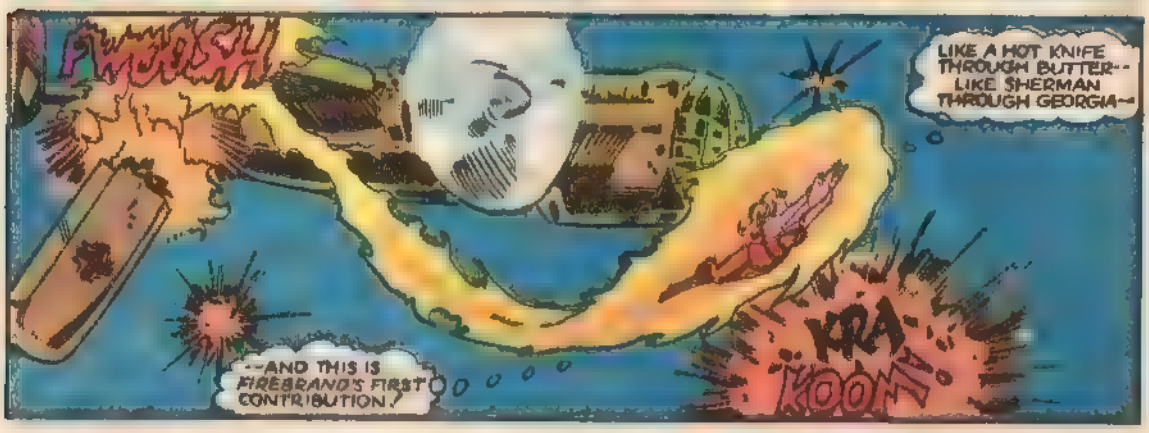
"It's chewy and juicy and yummy and fruity. And that's all I have to say 'cause I'm going to eat my Twizzlers candy now."


--THEY'RE THE BLACKHAWKS!
BLOOM
RATTA
RATTA
RATTA
THAKKA THAK
BTOOM!
WOW! I'VE HEARD OF THOSE FREELANCE FLYBOYS--THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GREATEST!
ONLY THING IS--SOME OF THE NAZI FIGHTERS ARE COMING BACK TO PROTECT THEIR EGG-MEN, AND--
HEY! WHERE YOU GUYS GOING?
WHERE THE ACTION IS--OUT THERE!
TELL THE PILOT TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, HOURMAN. THIS CRATE'S NOTHING BUT A FLYING TARGET!
9

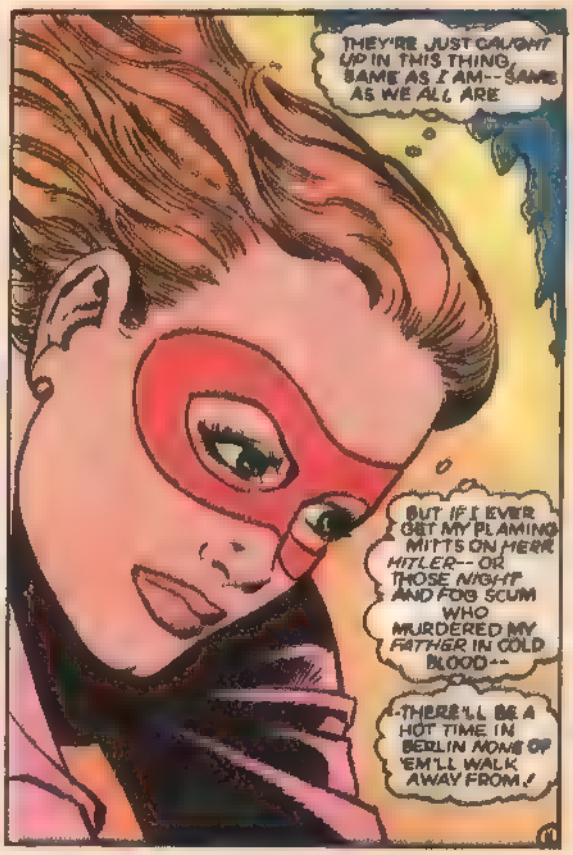
ALL THREE OF 'EM GONE -- EVEN FIREBRAND!
LOOKS LIKE, WHEN YOU CAN'T FLY AROUND THIS CREW, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE 4-F.
GOD, THOUGH-- I SURE HOPE BRANDY DOESN'T BUY THE FARM.
I PRAY NONE OF 'EM DO!
IT'S GETTING DOWNRIGHT DANGEROUS OUT THERE!
RATTA RATTA
KA-BOOM!
WH--? IS THAT ROBBIE DOWN THERE?
LOOKS LIKE HIS LITTLE BUCK ROGERS GADGET'S OUT OF CONTROL!
GUESS I SHOULD'VE SAVED MY TEST FLIGHT FOR A BETTER TIME-- LIKE MAYBE NEVER!
THOSE PINT-SIZE JETS ON MY BACK ARE NEVER GONNA HOLD UP 500 POUNDS OF METAL!

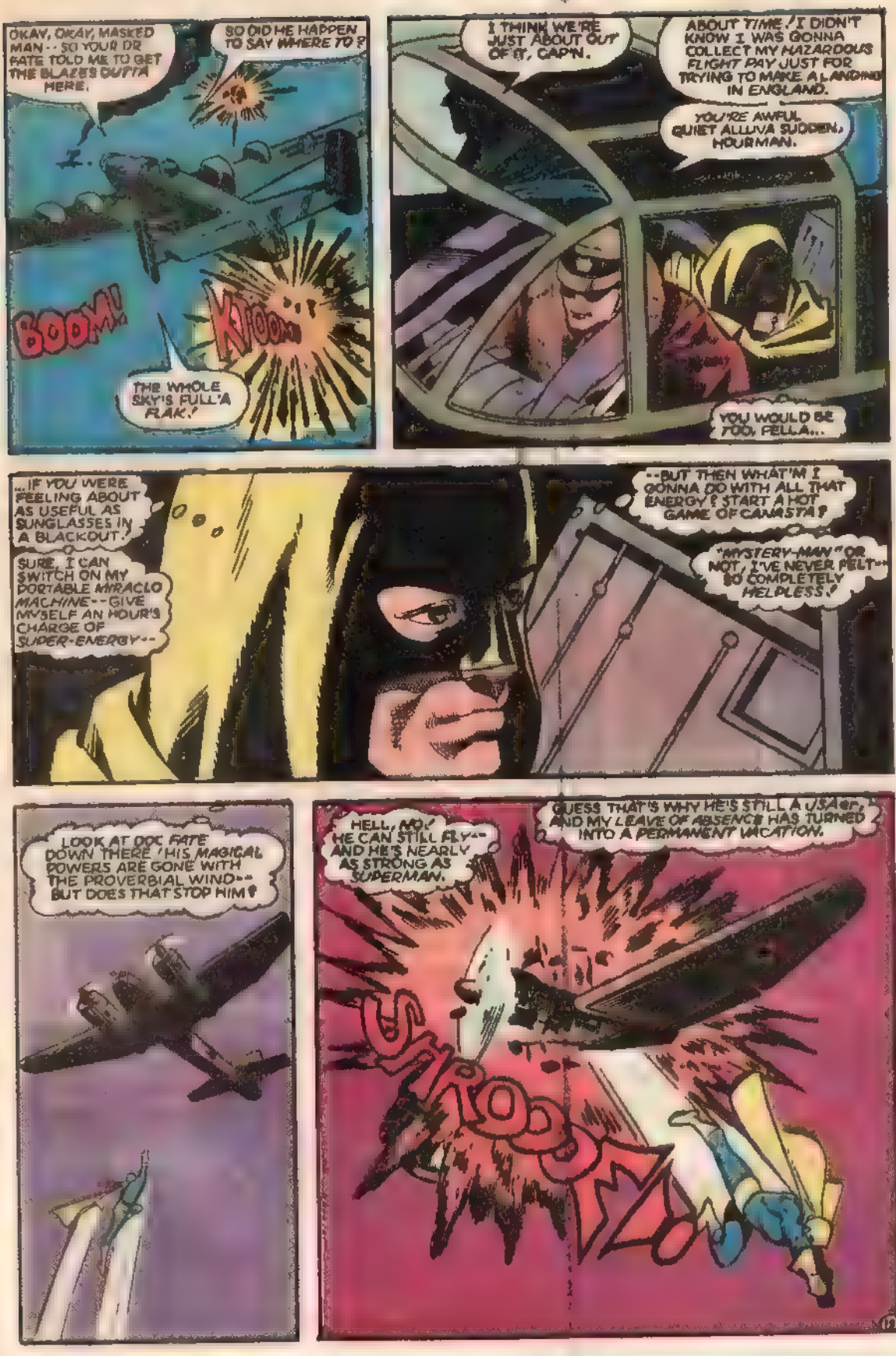

AND IT LOOKED SO PROMISING ON THE DRAWING-BOARD!
COME ON, LITTLE ROCKETS-- GET IT IN GEAR!
MAYBE IF I TRY IT HAWKMAN-STYLE--!
GUESS I SHAMED 'EM INTO IT!
"OKAY, AXIS-- HERE I COME!"
HMMM. MUST'VE READ THAT SOMEWHERE.
10

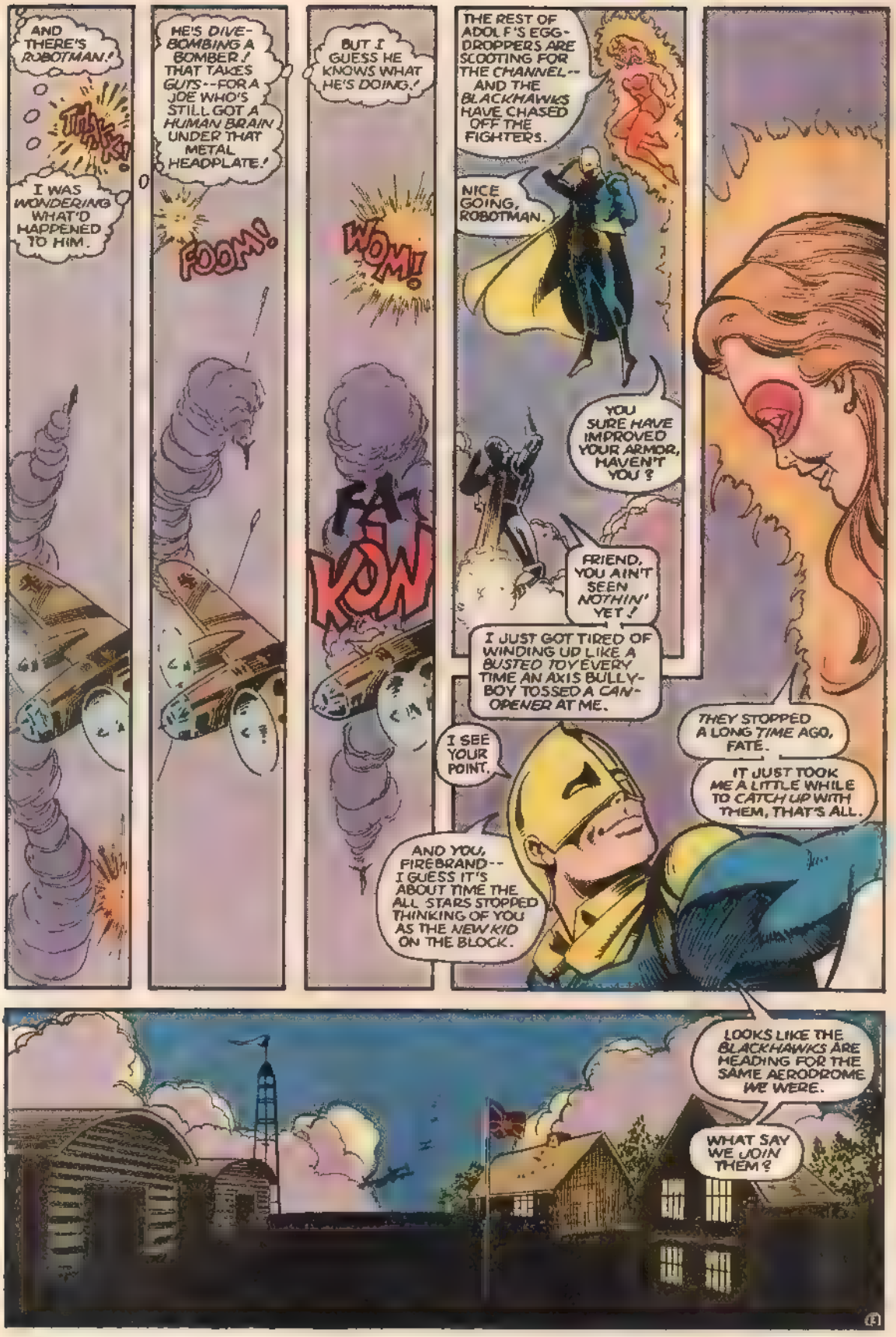

HOW DO THOSE FLYBOYS STAND IT-- ON EITHER SIDE?
LORD, THE NOISE! I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING DEAF!
BTOOM!
WELL, I DON'T HAVE TIME RIGHT NOW TO CRACK UP--MUCH AS I FEEL LIKE IT.
WE'VE GOT A WAR TO WIN--
KTHOM
FWOOM!


FWOOSH!
LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER-- LIKE SHERMAN THROUGH GEORGIA--
--AND THIS IS FIREBRAND'S FIRST CONTRIBUTION!
KRA-KOOM!

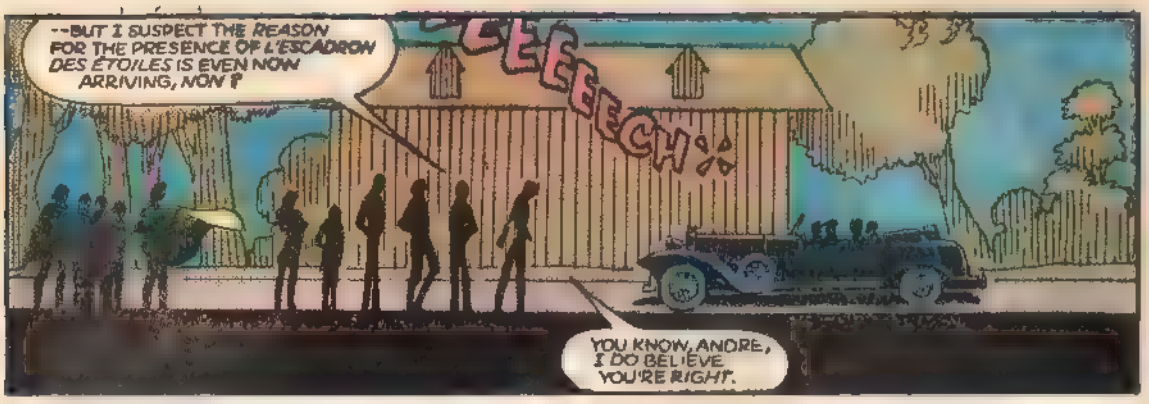
--AND SCRATCH ONE BOMBER!
JUST HOPE THE GERMANS INSIDE THAT IRON COFFIN HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THEIR PARACHUTES.
FACE IT, DANETTE-- ONCE YOU CURED YOURSELF OF HATING ALL JAPANESE, JUST BECAUSE YOUR BROTHER WAS WOUNDED AT PEARL HARBOR, YOU HAVEN'T GOT IT LEFT IN YOU TO HATE THE OTHER SIDE'S SOLDIERS.

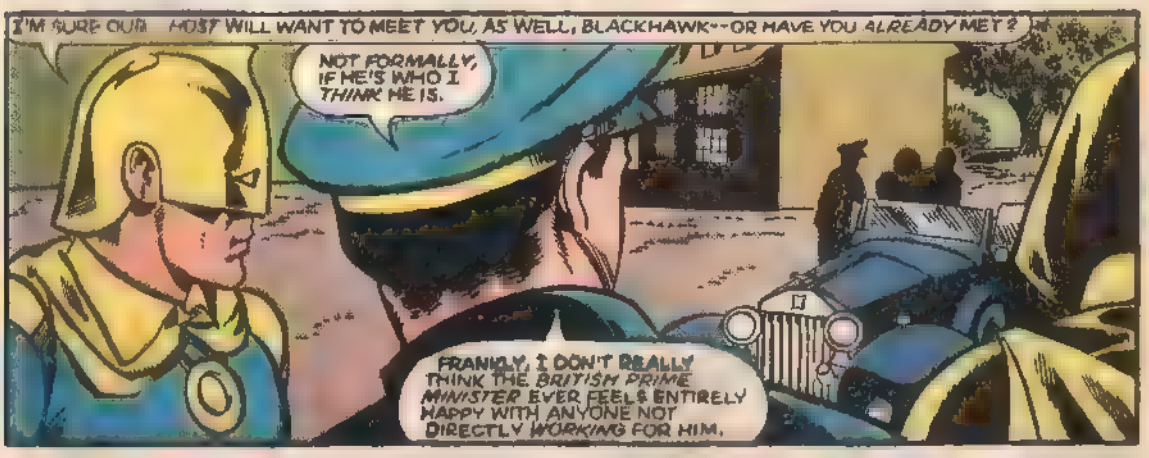

THEY'RE JUST CAUGHT UP IN THIS THING, SAME AS I AM-- SAME AS WE ALL ARE
BUT IF I EVER GET MY FLAMING MITTS ON HERR HITLER-- OR THOSE NIGHT AND FOG SCUM WHO MURDERED MY FATHER IN COLD BLOOD--
--THERE'LL BE A HOT TIME IN BERLIN NONE OF 'EM'LL WALK AWAY FROM!


OKAY, OKAY, MASKED MAN -- SO YOUR DR FATE TOLD ME TO GET THE BLAZES OUTTA HERE.
SO DID HE HAPPEN TO SAY WHERE TO?
BOOM!
KYOOM
THE WHOLE SKY'S FULL'A FLAK!
I THINK WE'RE JUST ABOUT OUT OF IT, CAP'N.
ABOUT TIME! I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS GONNA COLLECT MY HAZARDOUS FLIGHT PAY JUST FOR TRYING TO MAKE A LANDING IN ENGLAND.
YOU'RE AWFUL QUIET ALLUVA SUDDEN, HOURMAN.
YOU WOULD BE TOO, PELLA...
...IF YOU WERE FEELING ABOUT AS USEFUL AS SUNGLASSES IN A BLACKOUT.
SURE, I CAN SWITCH ON MY PORTABLE MYRACLO MACHINE -- GIVE MYSELF AN HOUR'S CHARGE OF SUPER-ENERGY --
--BUT THEN WHAT'M I GONNA DO WITH ALL THAT ENERGY? START A HOT GAME OF CANASTA?
"MYSTERY-MAN" OR NOT, I'VE NEVER FELT -- SO COMPLETELY HELPLESS!
LOOK AT DOC FATE DOWN THERE! HIS MAGICAL POWERS ARE GONE WITH THE PROVERBIAL WIND -- BUT DOES THAT STOP HIM?
HELL, NO! HE CAN STILL FLY -- AND HE'S NEARLY AS STRONG AS SUPERMAN.
GUESS THAT'S WHY HE'S STILL A USAer, AND MY LEAVE OF ABSENCE HAS TURNED INTO A PERMANENT VACATION.
STROOM
17


AND THERE'S ROBOTMAN!
I WAS WONDERING WHAT'D HAPPENED TO HIM.
HE'S DIVE-BOMBING A BOMBER! THAT TAKES GUTS--FOR A JOE WHO'S STILL GOT A HUMAN BRAIN UNDER THAT METAL HEADPLATE!
FOOM!
BUT I GUESS HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
WOM!
FA-KOW
THE REST OF ADOLF'S EGG-DROPPERS ARE SCOOTING FOR THE CHANNEL--AND THE BLACKHAWKS HAVE CHASED OFF THE FIGHTERS.
NICE GOING, ROBOTMAN.
YOU SURE HAVE IMPROVED YOUR ARMOR, HAVEN'T YOU?
FRIEND, YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!
I JUST GOT TIRED OF WINDING UP LIKE A BUSTED TOY EVERY TIME AN AXIS BULLY-BOY TOSSED A CAN-OPENER AT ME.
I SEE YOUR POINT.
THEY STOPPED A LONG TIME AGO, FATE.
IT JUST TOOK ME A LITTLE WHILE TO CATCH UP WITH THEM, THAT'S ALL.
AND YOU, FIREBRAND--I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME THE ALL STARS STOPPED THINKING OF YOU AS THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK.
LOOKS LIKE THE BLACKHAWKS ARE HEADING FOR THE SAME AERODROME WE WERE.
WHAT SAY WE JOIN THEM?

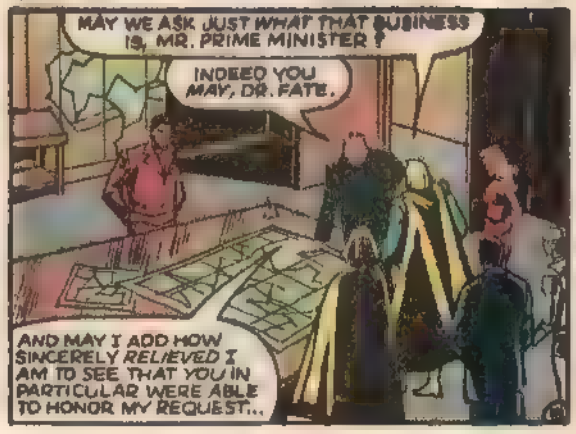
HERE COMES OUR PLANE, TOO. HOPE NO STRAY BULLETS GOT HOURMAN OR THE CREW.
REX TYLER'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT. HE'S A PRETTY TOUGH BIRD TO KILL.
LET ME INTRODUCE THE BOYS. CHUCK... ANDRE, FROM FRANCE .. CHOP-CHOP, FROM FREE CHINA.. OLAF, FROM NEUTRAL SWEDEN... HENDRICKSON (HE'S DUTCH)... AND STANISLAUS, A FELLOW POLE.
SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS BLACKHAWK.' A REAL PLEASURE
WE'VE SEEN NEWSREELS OF YOU AND YOUR MEN BACK IN THE STATES, BUT I NEVER FIGURED I'D REALLY GET TO MEET YOU TILL THE WAR ENDED.
THE PLEASURE'S ALL OURS. BEING POLISH, I'M KIND-OF BUSY TAKING REVENGE ON THE NAZIS FOR THEIR LITTLE BLITZKRIEG IN '39--BUT CHUCK HERE'S AN AMERICAN.
THEY SURE ARE COLORFUL, BY YUPITER.
BON SOIR, MES AMIS.
WE'RE PRACTICALLY A UNITED NATIONS ALL BY OURSELVES, DR FATE.
SO WHAT BRINGS THE FAMOUS ALL-STAR SQUADRON TO MERRIE OLDE ENGLAND-- OR AM I OUT OF LINE?
ZUT ALORS, BLACKHAWK--
WE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH TO THE FLIGHT CREW THAT BROUGHT US OVER, BUT I GUESS--
SKREEEE

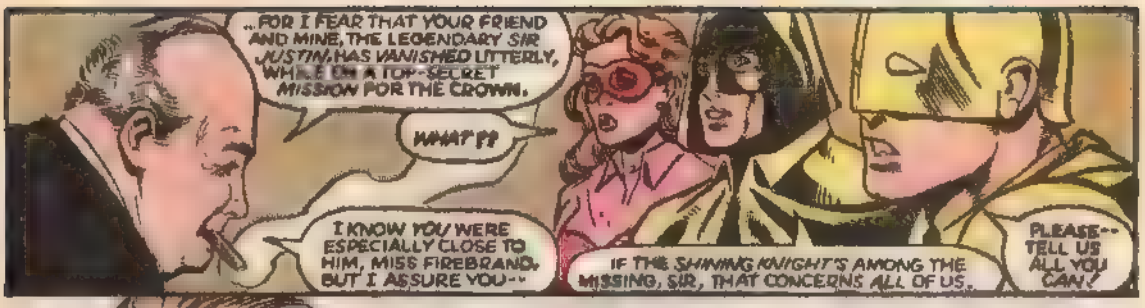

--BUT I SUSPECT THE REASON FOR THE PRESENCE OF L'ESCADRON DES ÉTOILES IS EVEN NOW ARRIVING, NON?
EEEECH!
YOU KNOW, ANDRE, I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT.


I'M SURE OUR HOST WILL WANT TO MEET YOU, AS WELL, BLACKHAWK--OR HAVE YOU ALREADY MET?
NOT FORMALLY, IF HE'S WHO I THINK HE IS.
FRANKLY, I DON'T REALLY THINK THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER EVER FEELS ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH ANYONE NOT DIRECTLY WORKING FOR HIM.

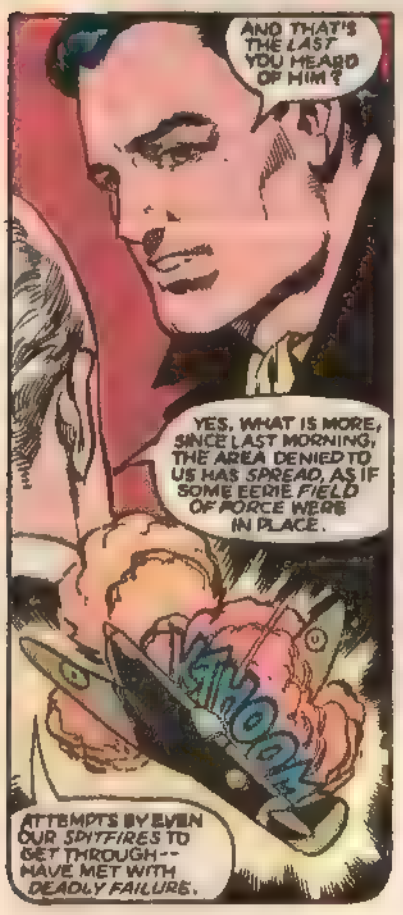
NOT FOR ME, MY DEAR BLACKHAWK... BUT FOR HIS MAJESTY AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU HERE, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE ALREADY-FABLED ALL-STAR SQUADRON.
MAY I SUGGEST WE RETIRE AT ONCE TO A SLIGHTLY MORE SECLUDED SPOT, SO THAT WE MAY CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION WITH A BIT MORE PRIVACY?

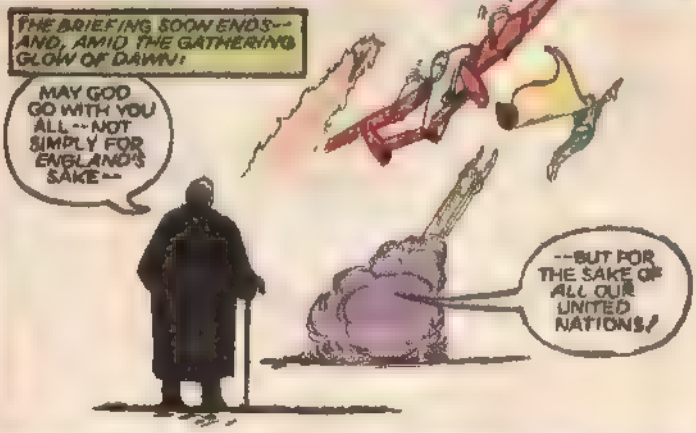
SOON:
A PITY YOUR FELLOW FLIERS HAD TO RETURN SO SOON TO THAT ISLAND WHOSE LOCATION YOU KEEP SUCH A SECRET EVEN FROM US, BLACKHAWK...
BUT AT LEAST WE KNOW THEY'LL BE KEEPING THE JERRIES BUSY WHILE WE'RE ENGAGED IN THE PRESENT BUSINESS, EH?

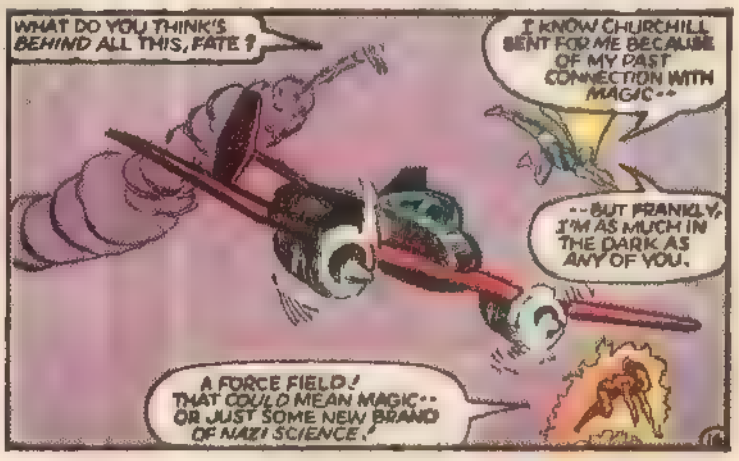

MAY WE ASK JUST WHAT THAT BUSINESS IS, MR. PRIME MINISTER?
INDEED YOU MAY, DR. FATE.
AND MAY I ADD HOW SINCERELY RELIEVED I AM TO SEE THAT YOU IN PARTICULAR WERE ABLE TO HONOR MY REQUEST...

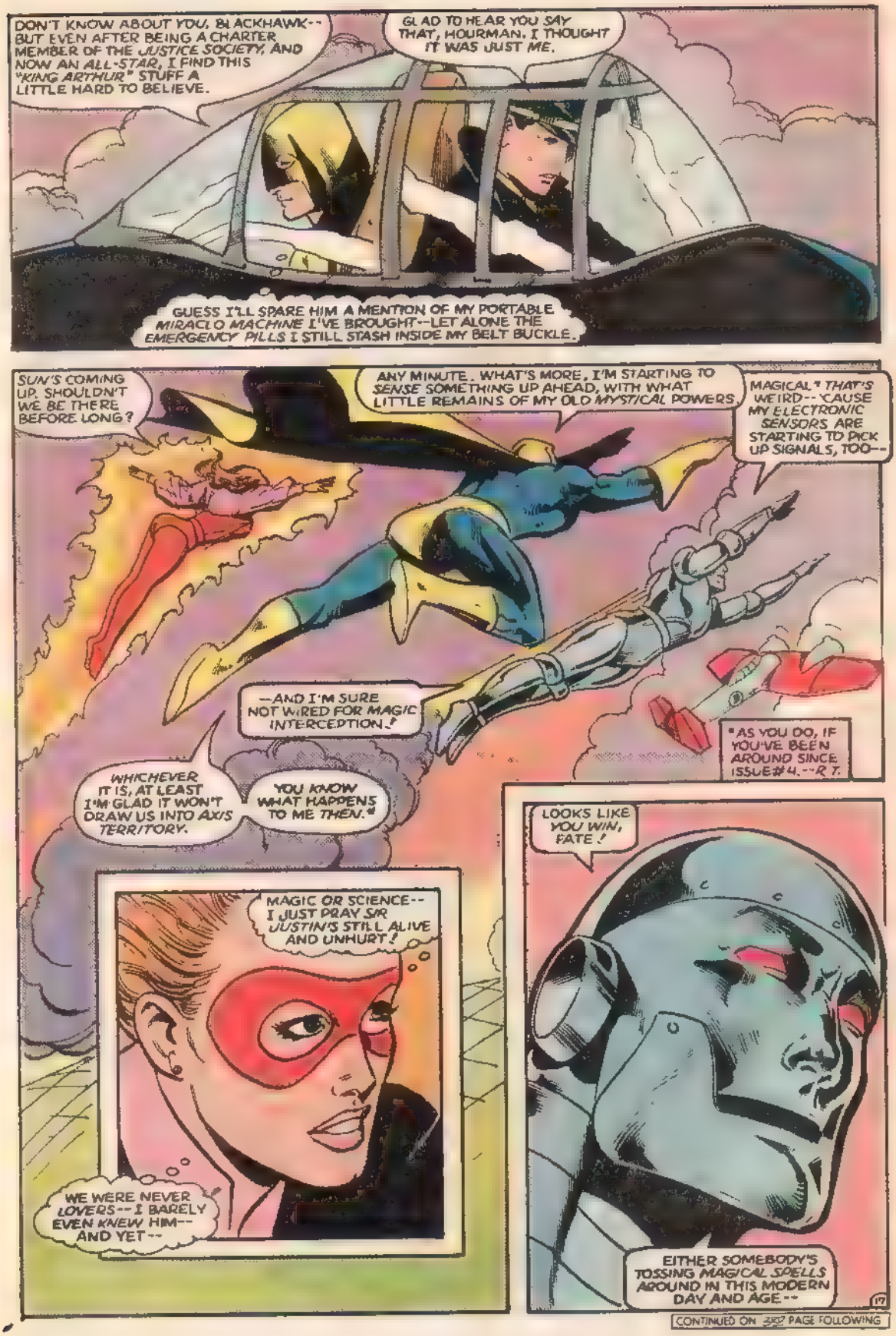

..FOR I FEAR THAT YOUR FRIEND AND MINE, THE LEGENDARY SIR JUSTIN, HAS VANISHED UTTERLY, WHILE ON A TOP-SECRET MISSION FOR THE CROWN.
WHAT??
I KNOW YOU WERE ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO HIM, MISS FIREBRAND. BUT I ASSURE YOU--
IF THE SHINING KNIGHT'S AMONG THE MISSING, SIR, THAT CONCERNS ALL OF US.
PLEASE-- TELL US ALL YOU CAN!

GLADLY.
ONLY LAST NIGHT, WE RECEIVED REPORTS OF STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF OUR ISLAND.
INDEED. A CERTAIN SMALL AREA OF IT WAS WHOLLY CUT OFF FROM ALL CONTACT WITH US. AND THAT AREA WAS--
--THE SITE OF CAMELOT ITSELF, AS IT STOOD WHEN I LAST DID HIE MYSELF FROM IT, AN AGE AGONE!
I PRITHEE, SIRE, LET ME BE THE ONE TO SEE WHAT THERE HAS PASSED.
GRANTED, MOST RELUCTANTLY.


AND THAT'S THE LAST YOU HEARD OF HIM?
YES. WHAT IS MORE, SINCE LAST MORNING, THE AREA DENIED TO US HAS SPREAD, AS IF SOME EERIE FIELD OF FORCE WERE IN PLACE.
KHOOM
ATTEMPTS BY EVEN OUR SPITFIRES TO GET THROUGH-- HAVE MET WITH DEADLY FAILURE.


THE BRIEFING SOON ENDS-- AND, AMID THE GATHERING GLOW OF DAWN:
MAY GOD GO WITH YOU ALL--NOT SIMPLY FOR ENGLAND'S SAKE--
--BUT FOR THE SAKE OF ALL OUR UNITED NATIONS!


WHAT DO YOU THINK'S BEHIND ALL THIS, FATE?
I KNOW CHURCHILL SENT FOR ME BECAUSE OF MY PAST CONNECTION WITH MAGIC--
--BUT FRANKLY, I'M AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS ANY OF YOU.
A FORCE FIELD! THAT COULD MEAN MAGIC-- OR JUST SOME NEW BRAND OF NAZI SCIENCE!



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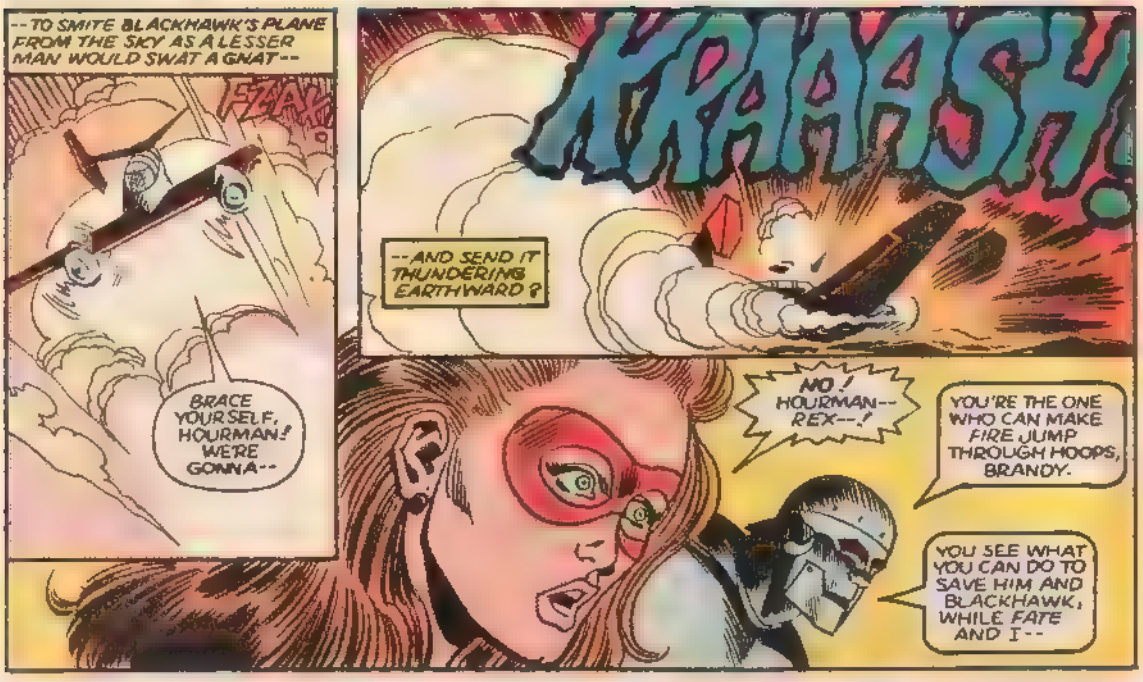
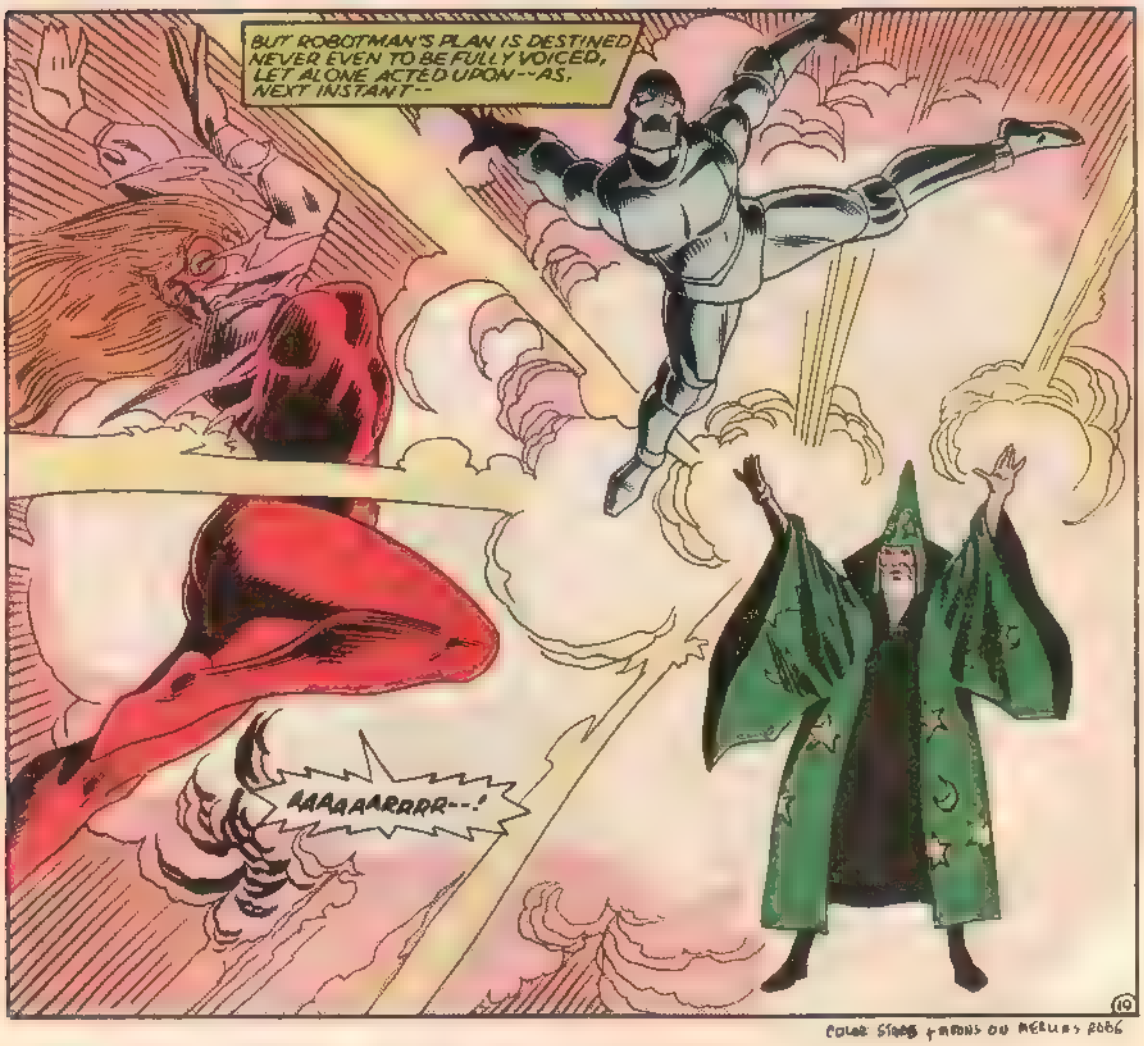
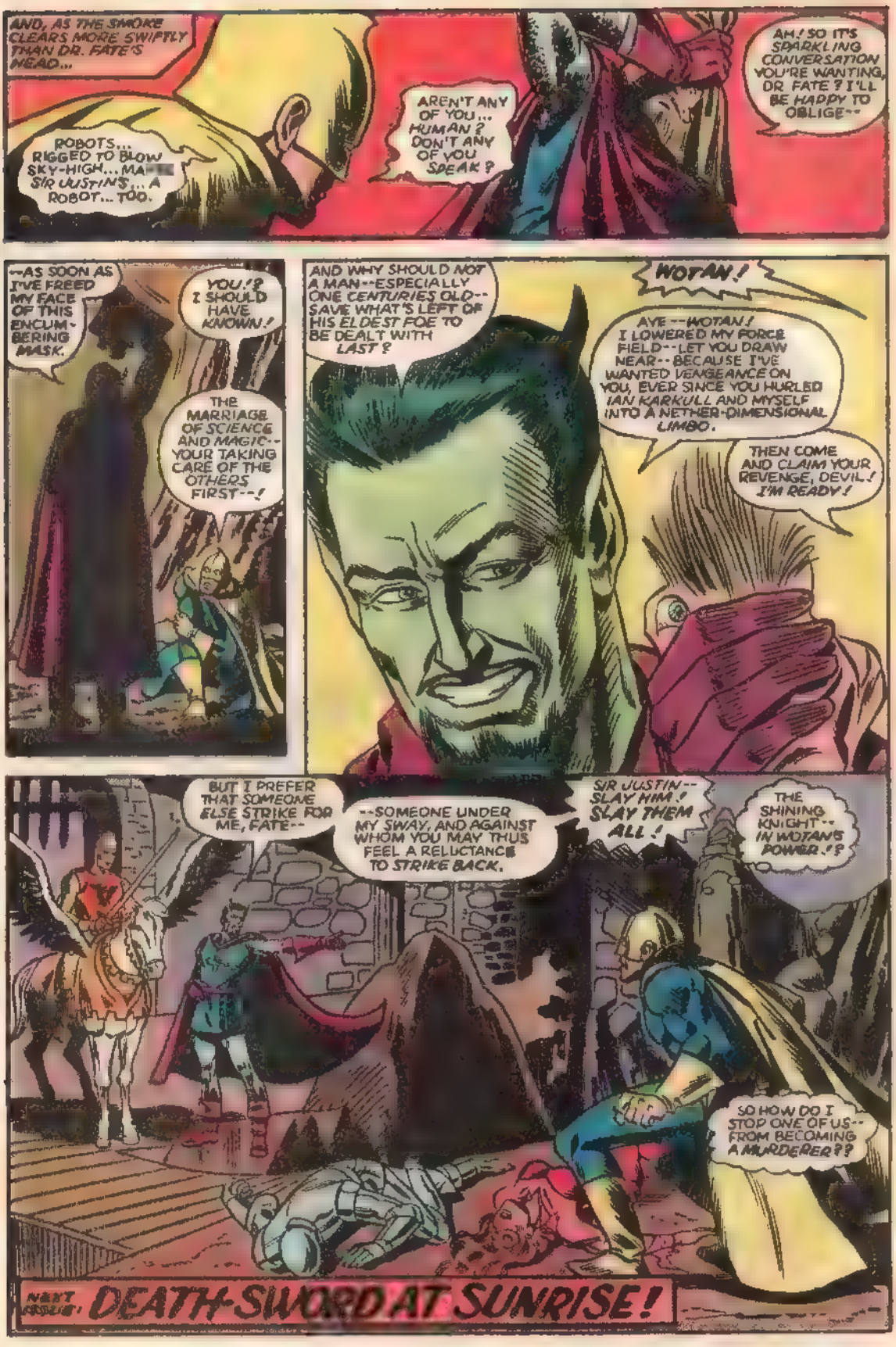
--OR ELSE OUR SEA-BEES FLEW IN LAST NIGHT AND DID ONE HELLUVA QUICK CONSTRUCTION JOB.!
ORMAZD AND OSIRIS!
YOU'RE RIGHT, ROBOTMAN.! I KNOW THIS PLACE FROM BEFORE. THERE WAS NOTHING HERE BUT RUINS--WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE ARTHURIAN-- AND NOW--!
HOLD IT.! THERE ARE SEVERAL MEN STANDING NEAR THAT GATE--
--AND DAMNED IF THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS.!
SOME OF THE ROBED AND ARMORED FIGURES, INDEED SEEM TO THE STARTLED HEROES LIKE KNIGHTS... AT LEAST ONE IS CROWNED LIKE A KING.
AND THE OTHER...
.. CAN THERE BE ANY DOUBT WHICH OF CAMELOT'S IMMORTAL NAMES IS HIS?
HE CAN BE ONLY MERLIN--MAGE OF MAGES, AND KING ARTHUR'S OWN SORCERER.
FOR IF HE IS NOT, THEN WHY, WHEN HE BUT RAISES HIS GREAT-SLEEVED HAND, DO FORCE AND FURY POUR FORTH?





COLOR STORE + MONS OU MERLUS 2006

AND ONLY THE MAN WHO HAS RECLAIMED THE NAME AND SOUL OF KENT NELSON REMAINS TO TELL THE TALE.
FIREBRAND'S FLAMES--ROBOT-MAN'S JETS--MAYBE THOSE ARE LIKE SO MANY STRAWS IN THE WIND TO YOU, WIZARD--
BUT I'VE STILL GOT A LOT OF THE POWERS BEQUEATHED ME BY A GUY NAMED NABU THE WISE -
SO YOU AND I ARE HAVING THIS OUT RIGHT NOW!
AGAIN THE SORCEROUS GESTURE--THE CASCADING WAVES OF SHEER FORCE--
--BUT THIS TIME, THEIR TARGET IS MERELY SLOWED, NOT HALTED!
I DON'T CARE--IF YOU'RE MERLIN--UNNH!--OR A SECOND COUSIN TO HARRY HOUDINI--
YOU'RE ALL THROUGH!
WH--? HIS HEAD CAME OFF WHEN I HIT IT!
IT'S NOTHING BUT--SOME KIND OF ROBOT!
NOT QUITE TRUE, DR. FATE.
IT IS A ROBOT--WHICH EXPLODES!
THWA-
B000000M!
20


AND, AS THE SMOKE CLEARS MORE SWIFTLY THAN DR. FATE'S MEAD...
ROBOTS... RIGGED TO BLOW SKY-HIGH... MA[illegible] SIR JUSTIN'S... A ROBOT... TOO.
AREN'T ANY OF YOU... HUMAN? DON'T ANY OF YOU SPEAK?
AH! SO IT'S SPARKLING CONVERSATION YOU'RE WANTING, DR. FATE? I'LL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE--
--AS SOON AS I'VE FREED MY FACE OF THIS ENCUMBERING MASK.
YOU!? I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
THE MARRIAGE OF SCIENCE AND MAGIC-- YOUR TAKING CARE OF THE OTHERS FIRST--!
AND WHY SHOULD NOT A MAN--ESPECIALLY ONE CENTURIES OLD-- SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS ELDEST FOE TO BE DEALT WITH LAST?
WOTAN!
AYE --WOTAN! I LOWERED MY FORCE FIELD--LET YOU DRAW NEAR--BECAUSE I'VE WANTED VENGEANCE ON YOU, EVER SINCE YOU HURLED IAN KARKULL AND MYSELF INTO A NETHER-DIMENSIONAL LIMBO.
THEN COME AND CLAIM YOUR REVENGE, DEVIL! I'M READY!
BUT I PREFER THAT SOMEONE ELSE STRIKE FOR ME, FATE--
--SOMEONE UNDER MY SWAY, AND AGAINST WHOM YOU MAY THUS FEEL A RELUCTANCE TO STRIKE BACK.
SIR JUSTIN-- SLAY HIM! SLAY THEM ALL!
THE SHINING KNIGHT-- IN WOTAN'S POWER!?
SO HOW DO I STOP ONE OF US-- FROM BECOMING A MURDERER??
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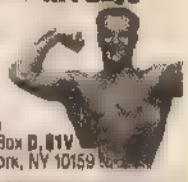

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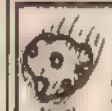

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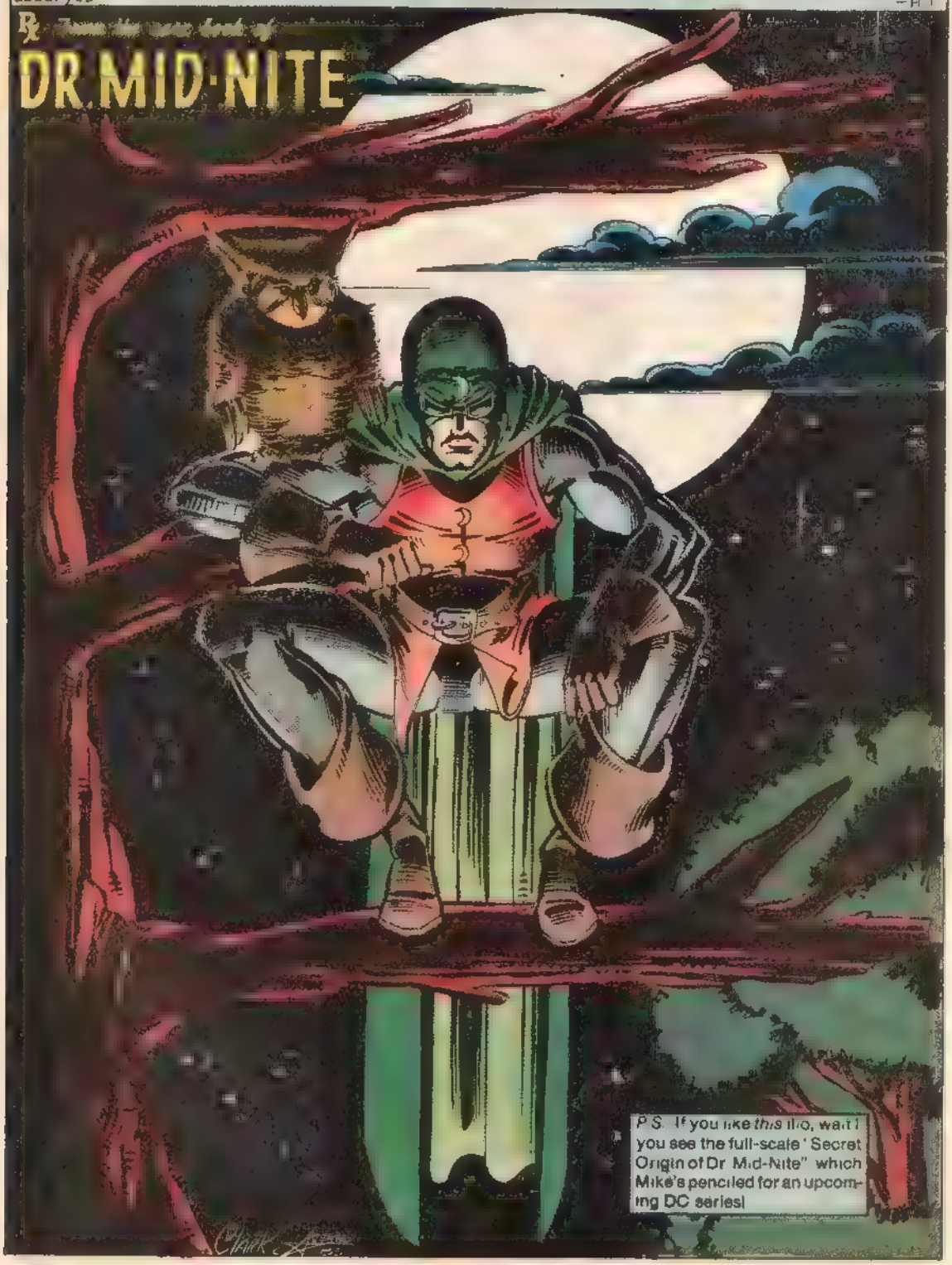
GOLDEN AGE GALLERY

This issue's very special Gallery presents the three illustrations by newcomer *Mike Clark* which earned him a berth as a co-regular artist with *Arvell Jones* beginning in #50 (not to mention a couple of pages *last* issue). They were inked by Mike's good friend *Jerry Acerno*, whose work has been seen in our competitors' mags . . . and we think they're pretty terrific. How about you?

—P.T.



And here's everybody's favorite Amazon Princess—shown in such an early adventure that she's still sporting the star-spangled skirt she wore for the first few issues of SENSATION COMICS . . !
Wonder Woman™

Last but not least, there's sometime-Sgt. Dolby Dickles and friend:
GREEN LANTERN
BUY WAR B
KEEP 'EM FLYIN', LANTRIN!
WE'LL LICK DEM SCOIVY WOIMS YET!
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SPECIAL NOTE: *A hearty welcome to newcomer* **Mike Harris,** *penciller of this issue and next of ALL-STAR SQUADRON. Regular penciller* **Arvell Jones** *needed a break for a couple of months, so I turned to Mike, who hadn't had much of his work published yet, but was full of talent and enthusiasm. Mike's stated that one of his foremost desires would be to draw DC war comics for the rest of his life—and though ALL-STAR SQUADRON isn't exactly a "war comic," I thought I'd give him a chance to "audition" with a story which includes some of his own favorite Golden Age heroes, the Blackhawks. Let Mike, DC, and me know how you feel about his debut, okay?*

Also, if we didn't mention it last issue—welcome, too, to **Vince Colletta,** *a longtime comics pro whose inking of THOR and early issues of THE NEW GODS made him one of the most popular embellishers of the 1960's and 1970's. Vinnie and I worked together on THE INVADERS, the Marvel WWII title (with pencils by the underrated* **Frank Robbins**) *in the middle 70's, until he went to work full-time for DC, and I'd long been waiting for a chance to see how he'd handle ALL-STAR SQUADRON. Thanks, too, to* **Pablo Marcos** *for doing a great job the past few issues until DC needed him elsewhere.*

—Roy Thomas.

Dear Roy,

ALL-STAR SQUADRON is the best team magazine on the market. Its use of both the JSA and other DC heroes/heroines of that period, actual and new (such as Commander Steel, Amazing-Man, and Firebrand) is great.

Do your plans include:

(1) having the other All-Stars like Aquaman, the Whip, and Mr. America add their talents?

(2) doing an occasional "day-in-the-life" issue of some of the less-featured All-Stars?

(3) doing an issue wherein the Earth-Two "teen titans" (Robin, Speedy, Wing, Little Boy Blue, etc.) combine talents against an enemy?

(4) developing other minority heroes/heroines whose appearances will add to the DC reality?

ALL-STAR SQUADRON has accomplished its main purpose, as I see it: teaming heroes/heroines who never had the chance to meet during the Golden Age. National-DC is *where legends live!*

Anthony Perdue
Los Angeles, CA

Just like the slogan says, huh? Actually, I'd like to do **all** *the above types of stories sooner or later (though Wing is hardly a teenager), but there are just so many hours in a day—or pages in an issue. Keep watching, though, and maybe one day we'll* **both** *get our wishes.*

—R.T.

* * * * * *

Dear Roy,

I'm a new comic book reader, twelve years old.

I just read ALL-STAR SQUADRON #43 and I loved the way the Samurai and Tsunami acted on their own hero codes.

I'm confused, however, on just who the members of the All-Star Squadron are. The DC WHO'S WHO says that Superman, Wonder Woman, Flash, Batman, and Starman aren't in the Squadron, but your book says they are. Please make it clear who the members [illegible]

By the way, I really admire the way you write and edit five comics a month (ARAK, AMERICA VS. THE JUSTICE SOCIETY, ALL-STAR SQUADRON, INFINITY, INC., and JONNI THUNDER, A.K.A. THUNDERBOLT), and also the way you handle those picky fans in the letter columns. I know it's hard, like when a reader noted (in #37) how Superman said he was from another planet when he originally found out only in SUPERMAN #61. You handled that one nicely.

Joey Jokinen
Oxford, MI 48051

Actually, Joey, I'm **grateful** *to any of those "picky" fans, as long as their letters are couched in polite terms which don't accuse me of all sorts of vile motives (from "not caring" to egomania). Life's too short, though, to worry about letter-writers whose folks have brought them up wrong, so most of those letters get confined to the trashbasket, albeit generally after being read. If there's one thing I can't stand, it's a comics fan with an infinite supply of righteous indignation; thankfully, there aren't as many of those around as we both might occasionally fear.*

As to the All-Star membership: The WHO'S WHO didn't get it quite right, alas. Virtually **every** *Earth-Two superhero is a member, real or at least potential, of the Squadron. Omitting the Quality heroes for now, since few have appeared of late besides Phantom Lady, Plastic Man, and of course the Blackhawks, the vintage DC list alone includes (but is not limited to) the following:*

Batman (and Robin), the Guardian, Americommando/Mr. America, Hourman, Dr. Fate, Dr. Mid-Nite, Mr. Terrific, Vigilante, Zatara, the Shining Knight, Robotman, the Whip, TNT (with Dan the Dyna-Mite), Liberty Belle, the Atom, Hawkman (and Hawkgirl), Wonder Woman, Manhunter, Wildcat, Sargon the Sorcerer, the Crimson Avenger (and Wing), the Star-Spangled Kid (and Stripesy), Johnny Quick, the Flash, Sandman (and Sandy), Air Wave, Aquaman, Green Lantern, Johnny Thunder, Starman, Green Arrow (and Speedy), and Tarantula—plus new heroes Amazing-Man, Commander Steel, and Firebrand, and a few others we've probably neglected to mention.

The WHO'S WHO entry was attempting to show some of the All-Stars whom I had indicated (to associate editor Bob Greenberger) would probably be fairly **active** *in 1985. But even that list is ever-changing.*

(Oh yes, and I may as well use this place to straighten out one other error that crept past us all into the first issue of the monumental WHO'S WHO series: it's the JSA which is directly responsible to the War Department, and the All-Stars to President Roosevelt himself. Sorry about that!)

—R.T.

MEANWHILE...

Part III (Finally!)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CARTOONIST/COMMUTER/EXECUTIVE EDITOR

9:22 After a brisk walk covering the roughly half-mile distance between Grand Central Station and DC's offices at 666 Fifth Avenue (a nice enough building, but the "dimples" on the cast metal panes that decorate its exterior make it appear to have a terminal case of acne), a short elevator ride takes me to the eighth floor. I enter our reception area, say good morning to Ruthie (our receptionist) and Clark ("Clark" is a life-size dummy of Clark Kent which permanently occupies a chair in our waiting room, endlessly reading the same page of the same newspaper), and head up the long hallway toward my office.

"Morning, Tom. Your place or mine?" We meet for a few minutes each morning to update each other on the previous day's events and see if we can head off whatever calamities are brewing this day. As Managing Editor, Tom Condon is responsible for schedules, creator contracts, and much of the business of our department.

"Yours. I'll be up in a few minutes."

"No rush, I'm going to get a cup a coffee first anyway."

I continue down the way to my digs. "Morning, Julie."

"You're late!"

"I'm never late, Julie, the **train** was late!" Actually, that's Julie's pet line, but I like it well enough to swipe it.

9:27 Coffee cups filled and at hand, Tom and I start the day. Minor problems have developed in the ongoing contractual talks with Don McGregor (Questworld) and Dan Jurgens (Booster Gold). I like both concepts and offer some solutions in the hope that we can resolve the problems and move on. Editor Alan Gold wants to change the date of his **Justice League of America Annual**. The projected story line ties in with the November cover-dated issue of **Crisis on Infinite Earths** and should be released on the October cover-date for maximum benefit.

"Aces with me, Tom. Check with distribution people and Paul (Levitz)."

The Loser's Special (also tied in to **Crisis**) has to be released on either the September or the October schedule. September is better creatively, but some of our marketing folk think October makes more sense for them. It's Marketing Director Bruce Bristow's call, but he's at a sales meeting in Las Vegas and not due back for over a week. We'll try to get him on the phone later. (When we talk to Bruce later that day, he goes with creative and opts for September. Yeah! One for the good guys!)

10:00 Planning schedule meeting in V.P. Paul Levitz's office. A group of high-level people go over our current schedules to see if we're making them (we are—barely, in some cases) and project releases, cancellations, new launches, potential problems and opportunities in the months ahead. Our planning schedule extends to March 1986. Of course, some of it is just wishful thinking at this early date.

11:00 Back in my office I delay my three daily 20-minute meetings with individual editors in order to interview a young man I met recently in Atlanta who was interested in learning more about comics editorial work. An hour in or near my office will confirm for him that it isn't all fun and games.

11:20 Interview over, I call Alan Gold in 20 minutes late for his Tuesday, 11:00 meeting. All of DC's editors and associate editors have weekly scheduled meetings with me so we can discuss problems and/or solutions in their individual areas of responsibility. Spur-of-the-moment meetings (some in the hallway, some behind closed doors) attend to the emergencies that often crop up and can't wait until the next scheduled meeting. Back to Alan Gold: lack of space, of course, prohibits my detailing the entire 20 minutes. We focus on script problems in a projected mini-series revival of **Jason's Quest**, a title last published by DC in the 60s, and talk about some future plans for **Blue Devil**, DC's 1984 sleeper hit.

11:40 Sal Amendola's turn. After some run-of-the-mill discussions of his **Talent Showcase**, I remind Sal that he promised a short piece for this column outlining our plans for the final phase of our current talent search. He promises delivery soon. (You'll see it in the next week or two.)

12:00 Nick Cuti tells me we're having problems getting covers out of Neal Adams for the extremely popular **Deadman** deluxe reprints. (So what else is new?) We do everything we can to give him more time. The covers he does are often worth the effort it takes to get them.

12:30 Lunch! I seldom eat in the office. I believe it helps to reduce the stress to get away at least for a short time each day.

1:45 Back from lunch. Took some extra time today ... I have a lighter-than-usual afternoon. From now until my three o'clock appointment I will close my office door and go through the huge stacks of paper (scripts, art, memos, letters, etc.) that pile up on every flat surface in my office. It's clear I need more file space ... and more trash baskets. I make some headway with my "in" tray, managing to move most (but never all) of the letters, memos, and copies of this week's cover production to their next destination. I also put a stack of unread script presentations in my portfolio ... something to do on my hour-and-a-half commutes.

3:00 I meet with Matt Wagner, who is writing and drawing a **Demon** four-issue mini-series for us. Matt is the writer/artist of **Mage**, published by **Comico**, and is a good storyteller. He came to us with a very interesting idea that will redefine the **Demon** character and we bought it. Now he's showing me the pencils for the first issue (I love 'em) and discussing cover ideas.

4:30 Time for my "Let's go out for a beer" meeting with Frank Miller. Getting out of my office is the only way I can guarantee an uninterrupted hour of talk on an important project, and this project is important. Frank has contracted to write and draw a three-issue (48 pages each) set of **Batman** books in a brand-new format (which I won't talk too much about here)! To give you an idea: book one opens sometime in the future with Bruce Wayne and Police Commissioner James Gordon meeting in a bar to drink a toast to the Batman ... who was last seen ten years ago! Don't miss it. You've never seen a **Batman** like this one!

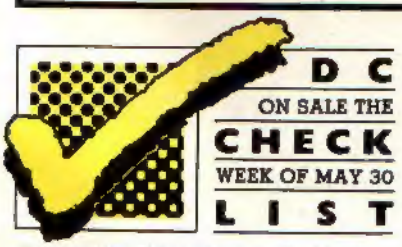
5:40 Time to dash off to get the 6:07 home.

7:45 I walk in the door from my garage into the kitchen. My wife Marie kisses me hello, hands me the phone.

"It's Roy Thomas, dear..."

Thank you and good afternoon.

Dick



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☐ **V 7:** Julie goes home for a rest but finds herself stalked by an assassin!

☐ **JONAH HEX 92:** In this final issue, Jonah goes out in "A Blaze of Glory!"

☐ **AMBUSH BUG 3:** A Bug-eyed view of the DC Universe, including Egg Fu and Mopee!

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